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NEWSLETTER



International Families Day Commemorations

Emthonjeni Womens Forum joined the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MWACSMED) in the national launch of the commemoration of Families Day. The celebrations focus is on promoting family well-being, raise awareness of family issues and advocate for family-oriented policies.

The commemorations highlighted that families are the first line of defence against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and when homes are built on respect, equality, positive parenting, and open communication, women, girls, men, and boys are better protected from violence.

The event resonated strongly with EWF's ongoing work under the Towards a Gender Just Society Free from GBV project. Across communities, EWF continues to strengthen family and community structures through gender equality education, psychosocial support, community dialogues, and economic empowerment initiatives that address the root causes of violence.



Speaking during the event, Honourable Monica Mutsvangwa Minister of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development emphasised that families are the cornerstone of sustainable development and social cohesion. Her call for stronger support systems, girl-child empowerment, and women's economic participation echoed EWF's long-standing commitment to creating environments where every family member can live free from fear, discrimination, and abuse.

Through community-based programmes, EWF is helping families become spaces of safety promoting healthy relationships, shared decision-making, and positive norms that challenge violence before it occurs.



www.emthonjeniwf.com



+263 292 882429



director@emthonjeniwf.com

Supporting Those Who Serve

In today's demanding work environment, self-care is an essential investment in people and organisational success. Recognising this, Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) continues to prioritise staff wellbeing through wellness initiatives that promote mental health, stress management, and emotional resilience. EWF with support from Trocaire conducted a self-care session, including guided yoga, providing staff with an opportunity to recharge, reflect, and reconnect with themselves and one another. The activity resulted in staff members feeling relaxed, refreshed, and mentally rejuvenated, while also highlighting improved team morale and stronger workplace relationships.



Commemorating Workers Day

As Zimbabwe commemorated Workers' Day, EWF brought together stakeholders from government, trade unions, and workers' organisations reflecting on progress made toward gender equality while highlighting persistent challenges affecting women workers. Discussions revealed that women, in the informal sector and women with disabilities, continue to face barriers in social protection, unsafe working environments, workplace harassment, and limited access to economic opportunities. The discussions reinforced the importance of EWF's ongoing work in promoting gender justice, economic empowerment, disability inclusion, and the prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The commemoration underscored that sustainable development depends on creating safe, inclusive, and equitable work environments where every woman can thrive.





GBV Gender Desks in Faith Spaces

Recognising the influential role of churches in shaping community values and providing support during times of crisis, Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) expanded the Gender Desk model to strengthen the response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within faith communities.

What began as a pioneering Gender Desk initiative at General Foundation Church in Ward 19 is now transforming faith spaces across Insiza District. Today, 9 churches from Wards 1, 2 and 15 have been trained and equipped to establish church-based GBV committees that promote prevention, protection and survivor support.

Through EWF's capacity-building programme, faith leaders and committee members are gaining practical skills on survivor-centred approaches, ethical and safe responses to GBV, referral pathways, and community-based prevention strategies. The result is a growing network of churches that are places of worship and also trusted spaces where survivors can seek support, information and referrals without fear of stigma.

EWF is equipping churches to challenge harmful norms, promote equality and respond compassionately to survivors, EWF is helping build communities where faith becomes a force for protection, dignity and justice.



As more churches embrace this approach, the approach continues to grow proving that ending GBV requires collective action and that faith spaces can play an important role in creating safer communities for women, girls and families.





At Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF), we believe that real change happens when awareness is matched with action. Through the We Are One Fund, your support helps us turn knowledge into protection providing legal aid, psychosocial support, and safe spaces for survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Your contribution also amplifies women-led initiatives, strengthening grassroots efforts that challenge harmful norms and advance equality in our communities. As we continue to confront the structural barriers that erode the rights of women and girls, we invite you to stand with us your donation is not just support, it is a lifeline that empowers survivors and fuels lasting change.

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@emthonjeniwomen/ Emthonjeni Women's Forum



EMTHONJENIWF@GMAIL.COM



EMTHONJENIWF.ORG



+263 7 85651529



www.emthonjeniwf.com



+263 292 882429



director@emthonjeniwf.com